

To: Johnson, Kathleen[Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov]; Miller, Amy[Miller.Amy@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Jeff
Sent: Tue 2/23/2016 1:13:11 AM
Subject: FW: CBS Evening News Tonight - Exide Battery Recycling Story

FYI

Jeff Scott

Director, Land Division

EPA Region 9

75 Hawthorne St

San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: (415) 972-3311

Fax: (415) 947-3530

From: Hood, Timonie
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Scott, Jeff <Scott.Jeff@epa.gov>; Barhite, Steven <Barhite.Steven@epa.gov>
Subject: CBS Evening News Tonight - Exide Battery Recycling Story

Jeff & Steven,

Today at the OPA Meeting I learned that the CBS Evening News is planning to do a story on Exide/Quemetco tonight (background below).

Nahal is the Press Officer and Tom, Barbara, AIR & ENF have been providing information.

I wanted to make sure you knew about it in case you get any calls.

Thanks!

Timonie

2-3282

On Feb 22, 2016, at 11:56 AM, "Hood, Timonie" <Hood.Timonie@epa.gov> wrote:

From: Huetteman, Tom

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 11:53 AM

To: Hood, Timonie <Hood.Timonie@epa.gov>; Gross, Barbara <Gross.Barbara@epa.gov>; Armann, Steve <Armann.Steve@epa.gov>; Sugerman, Rebecca <Sugerman.Rebecca@epa.gov>

Cc: Meer, Daniel <Meer.Daniel@epa.gov>; Reyes, Deldi <Reyes.Deldi@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: QUICK Input Needed: CBS Evening News Press Inquiry on Exide Battery Recycling Story

#1) I wouldn't want to comment on liability issues (I copied ORC on this). If the site were a Superfund site, which it isn't at the moment, perhaps there is a liability. I would think that we should say there are many factors that go into liability and we can't comment on this question. Exide is the responsible party at this point.

#2) Yes, I believe that Quemetco is the only other facility doing smelting (there is another facility dismantling batteries - Kinsbursky Brothers in Anaheim). The state (DTSC) is taking steps to look at lead in the surrounding community and have Quemetco taking steps to conduct sampling.

Tom Huetteman, Assistant Director

Land Division, USEPA Region 9

415-972-3751

From: Hood, Timonie

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 11:23 AM

To: Huetteman, Tom <Huetteman.Tom@epa.gov>; Gross, Barbara <Gross.Barbara@epa.gov>; Armann, Steve <Armann.Steve@epa.gov>

Subject: QUICK Input Needed: CBS Evening News Press Inquiry on Exide Battery Recycling Story

Hi All,

Can you let me know if you have any additional information to share? ENF is also working on this.

The questions are (background below):

1 - I am working with the CBS Evening News to gather some information related to the contamination caused by the Exide battery recycling plant in the LA area. I understand that Walmart utilized the battery recycling services provided by Exide – could Walmart become a responsible party to the subsequent contamination in the surrounding area?

2 - Can the EPA confirm if this Exide location was only one of two battery recycling plants in California? I believe this is the case, with Quemetco Battery Recycling in Industry, CA as the other and only current operational plant right now. Finally, have there been any adverse events involving Quemetco where pollutants have been found in surrounding communities? [Can you send a couple of sentences on where that facility stands. Bill mentioned we should have an answer for this.]

Thanks!

Timonie

2-3282

From: Christenson, Kara

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 11:01 AM

To: Mogharabi, Nahal <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>

Cc: Karlson, Kristine <Karlson.Kristine@epa.gov>; Hood, Timonie
<Hood.Timonie@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: CBS Evening News Press Inquiry on Exide Battery Recycling Story

Hi Nahal – Quemetco and Exide were the only two operating lead battery recyclers in CA. Re compliance, sorry – I don't think I should be the source of information about Quemetco's compliance – can we refer the reporter to SCAQMD for this? I'm ok providing that info as background for internal use only, but I haven't inspected / investigated Quemetco.

This email, including attachments, may contain information that is confidential and/or protected by the attorney/client or other privileges. If you are not an intended recipient, please delete this email, including attachments, and notify me by email or at (415) 972-3881.

Kara Christenson

Senior Counsel

U.S. EPA Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street, 16th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

phone: 415 972-3881 / fax: 415 947-3570

christenson.kara@epa.gov

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 10:56 AM
To: Christenson, Kara <Christenson.Kara@epa.gov>
Cc: Karlson, Kristine <Karlson.Kristine@epa.gov>; Hood, Timonie <Hood.Timonie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: CBS Evening News Press Inquiry on Exide Battery Recycling Story

Hi Kara,

Below is the CBS inquiry that Bill mentioned this morning. The first question we will be referring to the state.

I believe that we can confirm that Exide was only one of two battery recycling plants in CA. Is that correct?

For the question on Quemetco, can you send a couple of sentences on where that facility stands. Bill mentioned we should have an answer for this.

The reporter is running the story tonight and needs the information as soon as possible

Thanks!

Nahal

From: Brosh, Bianca [<mailto:BroshB@cbsnews.com>]

Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 11:30 AM

To: Keener, Bill <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>

Subject: CBS Evening News Press Inquiry on Exide Battery Recycling Story

Hello Mr. Keener,

I am working with the CBS Evening News to gather some information related to the contamination caused by the Exide battery recycling plant in the LA area. I understand that Walmart utilized the battery recycling services provided by Exide – could Walmart become a responsible party to the subsequent contamination in the surrounding area?

Can the EPA confirm if this Exide location was only one of two battery recycling plants in California? I believe this is the case, with Quemetco Battery Recycling in Industry, CA as the other and only current operational plant right now. Finally, have there been any adverse events involving Quemetco where pollutants have been found in surround communities?

Thank you so much for your help, look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Bianca Brosh

Bianca Brosh | Associate Producer, *CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley* | 212.975.5449